

From: Emmalyn Pilande [mailto:pilandee@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2013 2:31 AM
Subject: Support Bill 28, Smoke-Free Bus Stops on O`ahu!

My name is Emmalyn Pilande and I am the Research Project Assistant for the HEALTHY Program located at Kapiolani Women & Children's Medical Center. I strongly support Bill 28, CD2, making all bus stops on O`ahu smoke-free.

Through my work, I have been exposed to various people and different circumstances on how tobacco products affect their lives. This affects babies and pediatric patients in the intensive care unit, whose parents want to quit smoking, thinking that their children are facing the consequences of their decision to smoke. This affects teenage parents, who want to quit for their baby's health. This affects those who have spouses and relatives, who want to quit, encouraging others to make a healthy change in their lives. There is no safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke. The only way to protect the health of all of Hawai'i's people is to create 100% smoke-free environments at public places where so many people spend their time. Bus stops often attract large numbers of people, and commuters have limited opportunities to avoid secondhand smoke in these areas. Families, children, youth, elderly people, and people with disabilities use TheBus for their regular transportation, putting them at risk of exposure to secondhand smoke. Prohibiting smoking at bus stops or public transit waiting areas is a growing trend. 277 municipalities in 33 states have these policies, and we would like to see the City & County of Honolulu added to the list.

I believe that prevention is the key. If public places, such as bus stops are smoke-free, the risk smoking poses to the people of Hawaii will decrease. This will also reduce the secondhand and thirdhand smoke that my patients are exposed to.

I strongly urge you to support Bill 28, CD2, and help us in our prevention effort to reduce the exposure of our keiki to smoke.

Thank you,
Emmalyn Pilande
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